

Judge Lasnik

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff
v.
PAIGE A. THOMPSON,
Defendant.

| NO. CR19-0159RSL

**UNITED STATES' OPPOSITION TO
DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR
REVIEW AND REVOCATION OF
MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S DETENTION
ORDER**

1. INTRODUCTION

On July 29, 2019, Defendant Paige A. Thompson, also known by the online alias “erratic,” was arrested based on evidence that she had hacked into servers rented or contracted by Capital One Financial Corporation (“Capital One”) from a cloud computing company. Thompson subsequently has been indicted for hacking into and stealing data from more than 30 companies that rented or contracted servers from the cloud computing company.

The United States Probation and Pretrial Services Office (“Pretrial Services”) recommended that Thompson be detained pending trial. Following extensive briefing and a lengthy hearing, Magistrate Judge Peterson found that Thompson was a serious risk of flight. Magistrate Judge Peterson also found that Thompson – who has made threats to kill herself, to kill law enforcement, and to shoot up a social media company – was both a physical danger to the community, and an economic danger, and that there were no

1 conditions that could reasonably assure Thompson's appearance and protect the
 2 community. As a result, Magistrate Judge Peterson followed the recommendation of
 3 Pretrial Services and ordered Thompson detained.

4 Thompson now asks this Court to reverse Magistrate Judge Peterson's detention
 5 order. Magistrate Judge Peterson's findings that Thompson poses a serious risk of flight,
 6 that Thompson is both a physical and economic danger, and that no conditions of release
 7 reasonably can assure Thompson's appearance and the safety of the community all are
 8 well supported by the record. As a result, this Court should deny Thompson's motion.

9 **II. BACKGROUND**

10 **A. Thompson's Background**

11 Thompson has a long history of threatening and violent behavior – including
 12 threats to kill herself and others, and to commit suicide by cop – that has resulted in
 13 multiple calls to law enforcement, and the entry of protection orders against Thompson.

- 14 ■ In October 2018, two individuals, a couple, sought protection orders
 against Thompson. As set forth in a police report and their petitions,
 attached as Exhibits 1, 2, and 3, Thompson stalked the couple over the
 course of seven years (from 2011 through 2018). The harassment,
 which included leaving notes and personal items at the petitioners'
 residence, repeatedly contacting them through social media, and
 sending threatening text messages and emails, was so severe that it
 contributed to the couple moving. The King County District Court
 entered protection orders, attached as Exhibit 4 and 5, in favor of both
 the wife and husband, each for a term of *five* years, with the possibility
 of renewal for an additional term.
- 22 ■ In March 2019, police were called to Thompson's residence after
 Thompson became violent with her housemates. According to the
 police report, attached as Exhibit 6, Thompson had become agitated.
 When a housemate tried to intervene, Thompson tried to strike the
 housemate. Notably, Thompson's housemates reported that
 Thompson had threatened to retrieve a fake gun in the house and use it
 to commit "suicide by cop." Thompson's housemates also stated that
 Thompson had a history, during the entire time that she lived at the

1 house, of getting “incredibly angry at a moment’s notice and
 2 becom[ing] destructive to property and assaultive” to others.¹

- 3 ■ Most concerning, in May 2019, police were called to Thompson’s
 4 residence after Thompson contacted an acquaintance at a California
 5 technology company, and threatened to travel to the company’s
 6 campus in California and to “shoot up” the company. According to
 7 the police report, attached as Exhibit 7, Thompson’s threat concerned
 8 the friend enough that he reported it to the police. Significantly, at the
 9 time that she made this threat, Thompson had access to the weapons to
 10 commit such an act – namely, the arsenal of assault rifles and other
 11 guns of her roommate, Park Quan (discussed further below).

12 Thompson’s threats continued, on social media, in subsequent months. For
 13 example, in June 2019, Thompson said that she was ready to “check the f-ck out,” and
 14 that she had “nothing to lose,” but that she was “taking [her] time to pick off a few that
 15 deserve to go down”:

16 **ERRATIC**
 17 @0xA3A97B6C

18 Im ready to check the fuck out



19 I dont care if its jail or death

20 Jun 20, 2019, 9:57 AM

21 Prefer to die , and something to make it easy



22 Or you know jail

23 Jun 20, 2019, 9:59 AM

24 ¹ Among the documents Thompson has filed in support of her motion is a declaration of Diane Eakes. Declaration
 25 of Diane Eakes. Defendant’s Mot. Ex. 3. Eakes, one of Thompson’s housemates, says that the police report “does
 26 not accurately reflect what transpired.” This is not the only instance in which Eakes’ declaration differs from other
 27 witnesses’ accounts. For example, Eakes’ declaration denies that Thompson had access to Park Quan’s firearms,
 28 which she claims were locked up in a safe to which only Quan had access. As discussed in footnote 3, Eakes’
 declaration is inconsistent with the searching agents’ accounts. In addition, Eakes told Pretrial Services, when she
 was supporting Quan’s release, that Thompson was not welcome back in the house, but now says in her declaration
 that Thompson is welcome back in the house. For these reasons, the Government believes that the Court should
 accord Eakes’ declaration limited weight.

1  I can settle for that
 2 Jun 20, 2019, 10:03 AM
 3 So someone i dont know, i have nothing to lose
 4 I mean im taking my time to pick off a few that deserve to go
 5 down but its going to come back to me sooner or later and
 6 thats part of the plan
 7  Not you, im just saying because you asked
 8 Jun 20, 2019, 10:07 AM

9 Thompson also recently threatened to kill people who call law enforcement about her, as
 10 well as officers who respond to such calls:

11  **ERRATiC** @0xA3A97B6C · 4m
 12 Replies to [@0xA3A97B6C](#)
 13 But not the bitch ass n [REDACTED] who call the
 14 cops "omg save this person from
 15 themselves" bitch fuck you ill shoot those
 16 pigs, and then im coming for you next,
 17 naaaaagh!
 18 1 1 1 1

19 In addition to this history of threats – and, perhaps, explaining them in part –
 20 Thompson has significant mental-health issues. According to one of the victims of
 21 Thompson's harassment, Thompson's mental-health issues are long-standing. *See*
 22 Exhibit 1. According to the Pretrial Services report, Thompson's mental-health
 23 problems have led to Thompson's institutionalization on various occasions, including
 24 once following an episode of suicidal ideation in 2013, and once following an actual
 25 suicide attempt in 2016. They also have led to other threats to commit suicide. For
 26 example, in late 2018, Thompson sent an email to an acquaintance, attached as Exhibit 8,
 27 asking for assistance obtaining a plane ticket to Tijuana to "do a little medical suicide
 28 tourism."

1 Thompson also has other characteristics that suggest instability and risk of flight.
 2 Among other things, according to the Pretrial Services report, Thompson has a long
 3 history of drug use that lasted until 2017 and included the use of cocaine,
 4 methamphetamine, PCP, acid, mushrooms, and research chemicals, among other drugs.
 5 Moreover, Thompson has been unemployed since 2016, and has no known employment
 6 prospects, if released.

7 **B. Thompson's Crime**

8 **1. Thompson's Theft of Capital One's Data**

9 Thompson originally was arrested for, and charged with, intruding into servers
 10 rented or contracted by Capital One, and with stealing huge volumes of data from those
 11 servers. According to Capital One, Thompson stole information in credit card
 12 applications of approximately 106 million people. Although some of the information
 13 (such as most Social Security numbers) was encrypted, other information, such as
 14 applicants' names, addresses, dates of birth, and information about their credit history
 15 was not encrypted. Moreover, the data included unencrypted Social Security Numbers
 16 and bank account numbers for smaller numbers of customers (estimated at 120,000 of the
 17 former, and 77,000 of the latter, on the date of Thompson's arrest).

18 The evidence that Thompson committed this crime is overwhelming. It includes
 19 forensic evidence linking Thompson to the data theft, which resulted in the issuance of a
 20 warrant to search Thompson's residence. It includes the fact that the Government
 21 recovered data stolen from Capital One on a server recovered from Thompson's
 22 bedroom. And, it includes the fact that Thompson admitted to agents on the morning of
 23 the search that she had committed this intrusion.

24 Thompson's crime has done massive harm to Capital One. Within just days of the
 25 breach's announcement, Capital One already had been sued in at least 40 lawsuits in the
 26 United States, and eight more lawsuits in Canada. *See*
 27 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/capital-one-reports-data-breach-11564443355> (dated July
 28 30, 2019). Capital One has announced that it expects the incident to result in costs of

1 between \$100 and 150 million in 2019 alone. *See* <https://fortune.com/2019/07/31/capital-one-data-breach-2019-paige-thompson-settlement> (dated July 31, 2019). According to
 2 some estimates, the company may ultimately face significantly more exposure. *See id.*
 3 (estimating costs of up to \$500 million). Although stock price changes are subject to
 4 multiple explanations, it is notable that the company's stock price dropped 5% when
 5 markets opened the morning after the breach was announced, erasing billions of dollars
 6 from the company's market capitalization, at least temporarily.
 7

8 **2. Thompson's Other Crimes**

9 Based upon its search of Thompson's computer, the Government has determined
 10 that Thompson did not merely hack Capital One's servers – rather, Thompson breached
 11 computers rented or contracted from the cloud computing company by at least 30 other
 12 companies, educational institutions, other entities. Based upon this evidence that
 13 Government obtained an indictment against Thompson that charges her with engaging in
 14 a fraud scheme in which she stole data from more than 30 companies. *See* Indictment ¶
 15 16 (Dkt. No. 33).

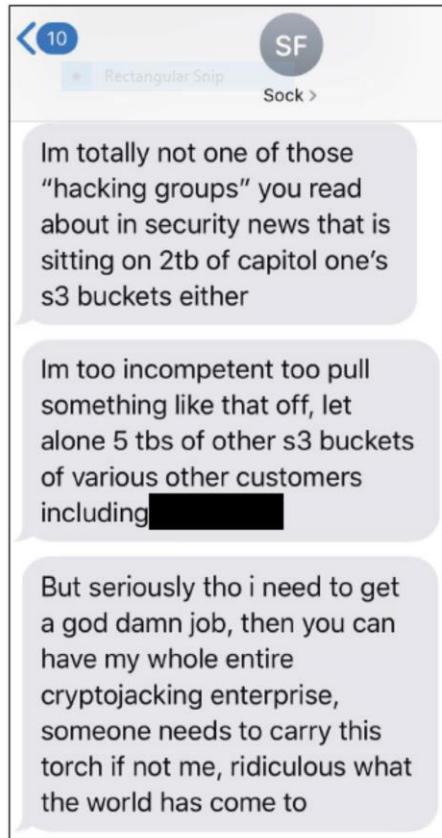
16 The Government notes that Thompson has represented that she neither sold, nor
 17 otherwise shared or disseminated any of the data that she stole (from Capital One or any
 18 other victim), and that the copy of the data that the Government recovered during the
 19 search of Thompson's residence is the only copy of the stolen data that she created.
 20 Although the Government is continuing its investigation, to date, the Government has not
 21 uncovered any evidence that would suggest Thompson's claim that she neither sold, nor
 22 otherwise disseminated, any of the data is untrue.

23 In addition to stealing date, review of Thompson's computer shows that
 24 Thompson also used stolen computing power from victims' servers to "mine"
 25 cryptocurrency, a practice often referred to as "cryptojacking."² Thompson even bragged
 26

27 ² Cryptocurrency mining is the process by which cryptocurrency transactions are verified and added to the public
 28 ledger, *i.e.*, the blockchain. Persons who verify blocks of legitimate transactions, often referred to as "miners," are
 rewarded with an amount of the cryptocurrency. Significant mining operations consume large amounts of computer

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1 to others about her cryptojacking. For example, in a series of messages sent to a friend
 2 shortly before her arrest, Thompson first referred to her theft of Capital One and other
 3 victims' data -- pretending to deny that she had committed these crimes -- then
 4 acknowledged her cryptojacking activity.



20 **3. Other Evidence Recovered from Thompson's Residence.**

21 Although Thompson's residence originally was searched pursuant to a warrant
 22 seeking evidence of Thompson's cybercrimes, during the course of sweeping the
 23 residence for safety purposes, agents observed additional evidence relevant to the issue of
 24 Thompson's detention. Specifically, within the bedroom of Thompson's roommate, Park
 25 Quan, agents observed portions of what can only be described as an arsenal of weapons,

26
 27 hardware and computing power, both of which are expensive. Cryptojackers avoid these expenses by stealing
 28 computing power from others.

1 ammunition, and explosive material, largely unsecured and accessible to his housemates,
 2 including Thompson.

3 Because Quan is a convicted felon, and not allowed to possess firearms, agents
 4 obtained a follow-on search warrant to seize firearms and related items. Pursuant to that
 5 warrant, agents seized 14 firearms, including assault rifles, a sniper rifle, and handguns.
 6 Some of the guns were loaded, including one with a high-capacity magazine. At least
 7 one appears to be short-barreled. Also recovered were two bump stocks, which are
 8 designed to be attached to semiautomatic firearms in place of conventional stocks,
 9 enabling them to fire bullets more rapidly, mimicking a fully-automatic weapon, two 37
 10 mm “flare launchers,” which can be used to shoot a variety of projectiles, and multiple
 11 high-capacity magazines. The fact that all of these weapons were recovered in the
 12 bedroom adjacent to Thompson, most of them readily accessible to her,³ is obviously of
 13 concern, given Thompson’s recurrent threats to commit violence against herself and
 14 others.

15 C. Thompson’s Detention Hearing

16 Pretrial Services recommended that Thompson be detained. On August 23, 2019,
 17 Magistrate Judge Peterson conducted a detention hearing in this case.⁴ At the end of
 18 that hearing, Magistrate Judge Peterson found that the Government had shown that

20 ³ As noted above, among the documents Thompson filed in support of her motion is a declaration of Diane Eakes.
 21 Declaration of Diane Eakes. Defendant’s Mot. Ex. 3. In that declaration, Eakes, one of Thompson’s housemates,
 22 states that “[n]o one in this house has ever had access to Park Quan’s firearms. Said firearms were always locked in
 23 Mr. Quan’s safe in his room. Mr. Quan is the only person who had a key to the safe. The key to the firearm safe
 24 was locked in another lockbox where a key fob is needed to open it.” Eakes’ claim that Thompson could not have
 25 accessed the firearms is rebutted by the other evidence in this case. Agents’ observation, during their protective
 sweep, of one or more firearms *outside* the safe is what led the Government to obtain a follow-on warrant. In
 addition, according to agents who conducted the search, one of Quan’s safes was open when agents entered Quan’s
 room, and the key to the other safe was in the door of the safe. Thus, the safes were not always locked and
 Thompson, and Quan’s other housemates, could have accessed the weapons.

26 ⁴ In addition to the information set forth above, the Government made a filing under seal to provide Magistrate
 27 Judge Peterson additional information concerning Thompson’s crimes and/or case. See United States’ Supplemental
 28 Memorandum in Support of Motion for Detention (Dkt. No. 15). Rather than refiling what would be exactly the
 same information anew under seal, the Government incorporates its earlier filing by reference in this response to
 Thompson’s motion for release.

1 Thompson was a serious risk of flight (based upon Thompson’s lack of stable
 2 employment, lack of stable residence, lack of income, and lack of ties to the community,
 3 both locally and with family in Arkansas). *See* Defendant’s Mot. Ex.1 at 37. Magistrate
 4 Judge Peterson also expressed concern that Thompson’s repeated threats of suicide
 5 (including repeatedly shouting at her initial appearance that she wanted to die), suicidal
 6 ideation, and actual suicide attempt raised concerns about Thompson’s appearance at
 7 future hearings, if released. *See id.* at 37-38.

8 Magistrate Judge Peterson then weighed the relevant statutory factors. *See id.* at
 9 38-40. Of particular note, Magistrate Judge Peterson found that Thompson had made
 10 repeated threats to kill herself, to kill law enforcement, and to kill others. *See id.* at 39-
 11 40. Magistrate Judge Peterson also found that Thompson had the “means and the ability”
 12 to create additional havoc by committing additional cybercrimes if released. *See id.* at
 13 40. Finally, Magistrate Judge Peterson found that there were no conditions of release that
 14 could ensure Thompson’s appearance and the safety of the community, and therefore
 15 ordered Thompson detained. *See id.* Magistrate Judge Peterson subsequently issued a
 16 written order memorializing her ruling. Detention Order (Dkt. No. 32).

17 Magistrate Judge Peterson’s findings are amply supported by the record in this
 18 case, and this Court should affirm her detention order.

19 III. DISCUSSION

20 A. The Legal Standard

21 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)(A) provides that the court shall “hold a hearing to
 22 determine whether any condition or combination of conditions . . . will reasonably assure
 23 the appearance of [a defendant] and the safety of any other person and the community”
 24 upon motion of the government in cases that involve five categories of offenses listed in
 25 § 3142(f)(1), or in two further categories of cases listed in § 3142(f)(2): namely, cases
 26 that involve “a serious risk [the defendant] will flee” or “a serious risk [the defendant]
 27 will obstruct or attempt to obstruct justice.”

1 In Thompson's case, a detention hearing is warranted because the case is one that
 2 involves a serious risk that the defendant will fail to appear. The government is required
 3 to prove risk of flight by a preponderance of the evidence. *See United States v.*
 4 *Motamedi*, 767 F.2d 1403, 1407 (9th Cir. 1985), rather than by the higher clear-and-
 5 convincing standard applicable to dangerousness determinations.

6 At a detention hearing,

7 shall . . . take into account
 8 (1) the nature and circumstances of the offense charged;
 9 (2) the weight of the evidence against the person;
 10 (3) the history and characteristics of the person . . . and
 11 (4) the nature and seriousness of the danger to any person or the
 12 community that would be posed by the person's release

13 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g).

14 If, after a hearing . . . the judicial officer finds that no
 15 condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure
 16 the appearance of the person as required and the safety of any
 17 other person and the community, such judicial officer shall
 18 order the detention of the person before trial.

19 18 U.S.C. § 3142(e). This Court reviews Magistrate Judge Peterson's ruling *de*
 20 *novo*. *See United States v. Koenig*, 912 F.2d 1190, 1192-93 (9th Cir. 1990).

21 B. Thompson is a Serious Risk of Flight

22 As both Pretrial Service's report, and Magistrate Judge Peterson, recognized,
 23 Thompson is a risk of flight, for multiple reasons. Thompson

- 24 ■ has no stable residence;⁵
- has no present employment, and has been unemployed since 2016;
- has a long history of drug abuse dating from her adolescence until
 25 at least 2017, involving numerous drugs, including cocaine,

26 ⁵ As noted above, one of the documents that Thompson has filed in support of her motion is a declaration of her
 27 former housemate, Diane Eakes. Defendants' Mot. Ex. 3. Although that declaration says that Thompson could
 28 return to her residence, Thompson's housemates previously told Pretrial Services, in connection with her former
 roommate Park Quan's case, that this was not the case. Further, because Thompson's housemates are potential
 witnesses in her case, Thompson's prior residence is not a viable residence to which Thompson could be released.

1 methamphetamine, PCP, mushrooms, acid, research chemicals, and
 2 other drugs;

- 3 ■ has a lack of strong family connections, in Seattle, and more
 generally;
- 4 ■ has a long history of serious mental-health issues that repeatedly
 have manifested themselves in erratic behavior; and
- 5 ■ is now facing near-certain conviction and a lengthy sentence.

6 Indeed, even limiting the loss amount in Thompson's case to the
 7 low-end \$100 million that Capital One (which is just one of
 8 Thompson's victims) has set aside to cover costs during just this
 9 year, the Government calculates that Thompson is facing a
 10 sentencing range of *at least* 121-151 months, even after a guilty
 11 plea. Thompson's actual sentencing range likely will be
 significantly higher.

12 Taken together, these facts establish that Thompson lacks stability and ties to the
 13 community that would help ensure her appearance. In addition, Thompson's history of
 14 mental-health issues and erratic behavior greatly exacerbate the risk that Thompson
 15 would flee. *See United States v. Boykins*, 2012 WL 3638659, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 22,
 16 2012) ("Given his unemployment, his lack of a home or sureties, his previous probation
 17 or parole violations, and his mental health problems, Defendant presents an unmitigable
 18 risk of flight."). And the substantial sentence that Thompson faces gives her a strong
 19 incentive to flee, whether as a calculated act or as the result of impulsive and erratic
 20 behavior. *See United States v. Townsend*, 897 F.2d 989, 995 (9th Cir. 1990). As a result,
 21 the Court should find Thompson presents a serious risk of flight.

22 This conclusion is further supported by Thompson's history of suicide attempts
 23 and threats. As one court recently held,

24 18 U.S.C. § 3142(f)(2)(A) . . . authorizes a detention hearing . . . "in
 25 a case that involves . . . a serious risk that [defendant] will flee".
 26 Although defendant argues that "risk of suicide is not risk of flight"
 27 . . ., I disagree. *See United States v. Cody*, 498 F.3d 582, 592 (6th
 28 Cir. 2007) ("suicide is a form of flight"); *Tug Raven v. Trexler*, 419
 F.2d 536, 543 (4th Cir. 1969)

1 | *United States v. Metz*, 2012 WL 6632501, at *4 (W.D.N.Y. Dec. 12, 2012); *see also*
 2 | *United States v. Workman*, 680 Fed. App'x 699, 702 (10th Cir. 2017) (approving
 3 | consideration of defendant's suicidal ideation and suicide attempts in finding that
 4 | defendant was a risk of nonappearance); *United States v. George-Rodriguez*, 2013 WL
 5 | 3246114, at *6 (D. Utah June 26, 2013) ("[E]ven if it is inappropriate for the Court to
 6 | consider suicidal ideation in its dangerousness determination, it is certainly permissible
 7 | for the Court to consider that fact in determining Defendant's risk of non-appearance.");
 8 | *United States v. Avery*, 2012 WL 5869296, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2012) (finding both
 9 | dangers to the community and serious risk of flight in support of detention, and noting,
 10 | among the factors "[o]f greatest concern" to the court, untreated mental-health issues and
 11 | "concerns about self-harm and self-destructive behavior").

12 As noted above, Thompson was hospitalized following one episode of suicidal
 13 | ideation in 2013 and again after an actual suicide attempt in 2016. In addition,
 14 | Thompson recently has threatened to commit "suicide by cop," has made social media
 15 | posts that suggested that she was ready to die, and repeatedly expressed a desire to die at
 16 | her initial appearance in this case. Thompson's history of suicide attempts, threats, and
 17 | ideation all confirm that Thompson should be considered a serious risk of flight.

18 Thompson argues in her motion that she is at greater risk of suicide if detained,
 19 | citing a report from a psychologist, Dr. Goldenberg, who argues that incarceration in a
 20 | male facility will exacerbate Thompson's mental-health issues and risk of attempting
 21 | suicide. *See* Defendant's Mot. at 11. Thompson also notes that there have been suicides
 22 | and attempted suicides at FDC-SeaTac, and that Jeffrey Epstein recently killed himself in
 23 | custody. *Id.* at 12. None of these arguments rebuts the basic fact that detention allows
 24 | close monitoring of inmates, including to prevent them from harming themselves.
 25 Indeed, the fact that there have been unsuccessful suicide attempts at FDC-SeaTac likely
 26 | is due, at least in part, to the fact that such monitoring of inmates prevented inmates from
 27 | succeeding in killing themselves.

28

1 Thompson currently is being closely monitored at FDC–SeaTac, including by staff
 2 psychologists who are seeing Thompson regularly to check on Thompson’s well-being.
 3 Although the Bureau of Prisons (“BOP”), which initially placed Thompson on a suicide
 4 watch, since has removed Thompson from that watch based on its observations of
 5 Thompson, Thompson’s continued incarceration will allow for continued close
 6 monitoring of Thompson’s condition, and the re-imposition of a suicide watch, if
 7 appropriate. As a result, Thompson’s detention is the best way to ensure that Thompson
 8 does not succeed in harming herself.

9 For all of these reasons, the Court should find that Thompson is a serious risk of
 10 physical flight, as well as a risk of harming herself, as required pursuant to 18 U.S.C.
 11 §3142(f)(2)(A).

12 **C. The 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) Factors Favor Detention**

13 As noted above, 18 U.S.C. § 3142(g) lists four factors that a court conducting a
 14 detention hearing should consider in weighing detention or release. Each of these factors
 15 counsels strongly for detention in Thompson’s case.

16 First, the nature and circumstances of the offense with which Thompson is
 17 charged are tremendously serious. Thompson is charged with committing one of the
 18 largest cyber intrusions and data thefts in history. (Although the Equifax breach
 19 reportedly involved the theft of personal information of approximately 143 million
 20 people, Thompson’s intrusion dwarfs most other famous breaches. For instance, the
 21 Target breach involved personal information of only approximately 41 million people.)
 22 According to Capital One, Thompson’s intrusion involved the theft of information of
 23 approximately 106 million customers.

24 And Capital One is only of the victims of Thompson’s criminal conduct. As noted
 25 above, Thompson is charged with stealing data from over 30 companies, educational
 26 institutions, and other entities. Although not all of those intrusions involved the theft of
 27 personal identifying information, it is likely that a number of the intrusions involved the
 28 theft of either personal identifying information or other sensitive information.

1 Moreover, even if it is true that the government has recovered all of the stolen
 2 data, the impact of Thompson's crime is immense. Capital One alone already has been
 3 sued in at least 48 separate cases, has estimated that it will incur \$100 to \$150 million of
 4 additional costs in 2019 alone, and likely will incur even higher costs before the
 5 consequences of Thompson's actions are fully resolved. Presumably, many of the other
 6 victims of Thompson's intrusions and thefts also will incur substantial costs.

7 Second, the weight of the evidence is overwhelming. Thompson openly boasted
 8 about her exploits on various social media forums. For example:

9 Ive basically strapped myself with a bomb vest, fucking
 10 dropping capitol ones dox and admitting it

11 I wanna distribute those buckets i think first

12 Jun 18, 2019, 12:04 AM

13 There ssns...with full name and dob

14 Jun 18, 2019, 12:06 AM

16 Data that Thompson stole from Capital One, and other victims, was recovered from a
 17 server in Thompson's bedroom. And, in a post-arrest statement, Thompson admitted to
 18 the data intrusion and theft of data from Capital One.

19 Third, Thompson's history and characteristics further weigh in favor of detention.
 20 Thompson has a long history of threats to kill others, to kill herself, and to commit
 21 suicide by cop. The threats are serious enough that they have resulted in multiple calls to
 22 law enforcement and restraining orders. The threats likely are related to, and intertwined
 23 with, what appears to be a significant history of mental-health problems. In addition,
 24 Thompson lacks both a residence to which she could be released and employment to
 25 provide her structure and stability.

26 Fourth, Thompson's release would pose a serious danger to the community. Thus,
 27 Thompson would pose a danger of violence. After repeated threats to kill others or
 28 herself, or to commit suicide by cop, Thompson clearly poses a physical danger. In

1 today's America, it is easy enough to obtain firearms, and there is every reason to be
 2 concerned that Thompson, who repeatedly has threatened to kill, would obtain the means
 3 to carry out her threats – particularly when confronted with the alternative of near-certain
 4 conviction and lengthy imprisonment.

5 Thompson also would pose an economic or technological danger. The Ninth
 6 Circuit, and other courts, have recognized that courts may consider the risk of economic
 7 harm in making bail decisions. *See United States v. Reynolds*, 956 F.2d 192,192 (9th Cir.
 8 1992) (“We further hold that danger may, at least in some cases, encompass pecuniary or
 9 economic harm.”); *United States v. Provenzano*, 605 F.2d 85, 95 (3d Cir. 1979) (“A
 10 defendant’s propensity to commit crime generally, even if the resulting harm would be not
 11 solely physical, may constitute sufficient risk of danger to come within contemplation of
 12 the [Bail Reform Act].”).

13 Thompson’s conduct already almost certainly has caused hundreds of millions of
 14 dollars of damage. If Thompson were released, and if she does in fact have another copy
 15 of the stolen data, Thompson could sell or disseminate it. Even if she does not have
 16 another copy, Thompson’s technical sophistication means that she could commit
 17 additional cyber intrusions, likely causing additional hundreds of millions of dollars of
 18 damage. Both risks are of particular concern, given Thompson’s instability. Regardless
 19 of what Thompson might promise the Court, she previously has threatened to disseminate
 20 stolen data containing tens of millions of people’s personal identifying information. *See,*
 21 *e.g.*, Twitter Post in Part II.B.2 *supra* (threatening to “distribute [Capital One’s]
 22 buckets”). There are no reasonable assurances that, if released, she would not commit
 23 additional breaches and follow through on such a threat in the future.

24 **D. There Are no Conditions of Release that Can Reasonably Assure**
 25 **Thompson’s Appearance and the Community’s Safety**

26 Thompson is proposing that she be released to a halfway house, subject to
 27 electronic monitoring, and under mental-health treatment. But these conditions are
 28 insufficient reasonably to assure Thompson’s appearance and the community’s safety.

1 Halfway houses are not secure facilities. As a result, if Thompson were released
 2 to a halfway house, she could simply walk away. Nor would electronic monitoring
 3 prevent Thompson from fleeing. As courts repeatedly have recognized, electronic
 4 monitoring has many uses, but it does not prevent flight. *See, e.g., United Townsend*, 897
 5 F.2d at 994-95 (“Nor does the wearing of an electronic device offer assurance against
 6 flight occurring before measures can be taken to prevent a detected departure from the
 7 jurisdiction.”); *United States v. Menaged*, 2017 WL 2556828, at *4 (D. Ariz. June 13,
 8 2017) (“If Defendant intended to flee, the GPS device could easily be removed. . . . A
 9 GPS device . . . does not ameliorate his risk of flight.”).

10 A mental-health treatment requirement also fails adequately to address these
 11 concerns. Thompson’s mental-health conditions are long-standing and well-known to
 12 Thompson. The Government understands that Thompson had been receiving mental-
 13 health treatment for more than a year prior to her arrest. Yet Thompson made the violent
 14 threats detailed in Part II.A, and committed the crimes with which she is charged, even
 15 while receiving that mental-health treatment. There is no reason to believe that any
 16 mental-health treatment Thompson might receive while on release would be any more
 17 effective in reducing the danger that Thompson posed than her prior treatment.

18 Thompson argues that courts in this district routinely release child pornography
 19 defendants on bond with conditions that restrict their computer use. *See* Defendant’s
 20 Mot. at 17. But Thompson is looking at only one aspect of those cases – the crime with
 21 which the defendants were charged. This Court must look at Thompson as a whole,
 22 including the fact that Thompson, *unlike* most or all of those defendants, has a long
 23 history of mental-health issues, and a disturbing pattern of threats of violence to herself
 24 and others. It is the combination of all of these elements in Thompson’s case that makes
 25 her a particular risk of flight and danger to the community.

26 Thompson also argues that those defendants committed crimes using “ordinary
 27 computers available to the public, including smart phones,” but that her crimes involved a
 28 custom-built computer with unique software. *See* Defendant’s Mot. at 17. But the

1 complexity of Thompson's computer was not a necessary element of her crimes. The
 2 technological danger Thompson poses stems from Thompson's technical knowledge.
 3 Thompson could use that expertise on a much simpler computer than she owned to
 4 commit additional computer intrusions similar to those with which she is charged.⁶

5 Finally, the immense added stress caused by Thompson's current circumstances
 6 presumably will serve only to intensify the unpredictability of Thompson's future actions.
 7 Simply put, if Thompson is released, there is every reason to believe that Thompson
 8 would flee or harm herself, or would resort to threats, violence, or cybercrime. No
 9 condition or combination of conditions could adequately prevent her from doing so. As a
 10 result, this Court should order that Thompson be detained.

11 **E. Thompson's Treatment at FDC – SeaTac**

12 A substantial portion of Thompson's arguments address issues that are not
 13 relevant to the factors that the Court must consider to decide whether Thompson poses a
 14 risk of flight and a danger to the community, and therefore should be detained pending
 15 trial. Much of this has to do with the conditions of Thompson's confinement at the
 16 Federal Detention Center – SeaTac ("FDC"), and, particularly, with the impact of the fact
 17 that Thompson is transgender, and is being housed in the male unit at FDC.

18 To ensure that the record is complete, the government notes that FDC has been
 19 treating Thompson consistently with the terms of the BOP's Transgender Offender

21
 22 ⁶ Indeed, Thompson recently had her computer access restricted at FDC – SeaTac after Thompson was found
 23 exploring the facility's computers and considering ways to exceed the limited access she was permitted. This
 24 occurred after Thompson was found to have sent an e-mail to a friend in which she stated:

25 There's prob some way I could get a file:///C somewhere perhaps in contacts
 26 and it might automatically expand to a link that can be clicked somewhere that
 27 would give you could use to start a windows explorer shell but I haven't tried :D
 They also trap all keyboard signals in this app. I'm also pretty sure these
 computers are running [redacted], so there might even be a way to get a cmd.exe
 so from safe mode/winrm.

28 Thompson's interest in exceeding authorized access, even on FDC-SeaTacs's computers shows
 that the risk she poses does not depend on powerful computers and sophisticated software.

1 Manual (Program Statement 5200.04) (Jan. 18, 2017; updated May 11, 2018). That
 2 manual is designed to ensure that BOP properly identifies and provides services to the
 3 transgender population, consistent with maintaining security and good order in federal
 4 prisons.

5 The manual provides that, in making housing designations, BOP’s Transgender
 6 Executive Council (“TEC”) should consider factors including inmates’ gender expression,
 7 medical and mental health needs, vulnerability to victimization, and likelihood of abusing
 8 others. It provides that the TEC should use biological sex as the initial determination for
 9 designation. It also provides, however, that designation to a facility of the inmate’s
 10 identified gender may be appropriate after considering factors including the health and
 11 safety of the transgender inmate and whether such placement would threaten the security
 12 of the institution or pose a risk to other inmates, where there has been significant progress
 13 towards transition as demonstrated by medical and mental health history.

14 In Thompson’s case, BOP, and the TEC, are closely monitoring Thompson’s
 15 situation. BOP is providing Thompson medications that she takes due to her transgender
 16 status. BOP has housed Thompson in a male unit, but initially placed Thompson in a cell
 17 with her former housemate, Quan, with whom Thompson had expressed a preference for
 18 sharing a cell. BOP subsequently moved Thompson, at Thompson’s request, to allow her
 19 to share a cell with another transgender inmate. And BOP is ensuring that staff
 20 psychologists regularly meet with Thompson and monitor Thompson’s condition.

21 Thus, BOP staff psychologists have met with Thompson on multiple occasions
 22 since the date of her initial July 29, 2019. Thompson consistently has reported to them
 23 that she has not been harassed or threatened. Thompson has not reported any current
 24 safety concerns (but has expressed general concerns about her safety in a male housing
 25 unit). The staff psychologists report that Thompson appears to be adjusting well to her
 26 incarceration. In particular, Thompson is denying any ongoing suicidal ideation and has
 27 been taken off suicide watch, although such watch obviously could be quickly re-
 28 instituted should Thompson’s condition change.

1 Finally, release to a halfway house would not mitigate Thompson's concerns.
 2 Thompson still would be housed in a male unit or wing. In addition, Thompson still
 3 would be exposed to a similar transient population, and therefore likely still face the same
 4 risk of harassment or abuse, but without the oversight of trained corrections officers,
 5 ready and able to intervene as needed.

6 Thompson may wish to pursue other legal challenges to the conditions of her
 7 confinement, but those conditions are not material to the question before this Court,
 8 which is whether Thompson should be detained or released pending trial. The answer to
 9 that question, under 18 U.S.C. § 3142 and applicable case law, is that Thompson should
 10 be detained.

11 IV. CONCLUSION

12 For the foregoing reasons, this Court should affirm Magistrate Judge Peterson's
 13 detention order.

14 DATED: this 20th day of September, 2019.

15 Respectfully submitted,

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 17 United States Attorney

18 /s/ Andrew C. Friedman

19 /s/ Steven T. Masada

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1
2 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
3
4

5 I hereby certify that on September 20, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing
6 with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such
7 filing to the attorney of record for the defendant.
8
9

10 */s/ Andrew C. Friedman* _____
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